



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

25 MARCH 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Nebraska Congressman Convicted in Illegal Foreign Campaign Contributions Probe

(U) US Representative Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska was convicted on charges that he lied to federal authorities about an illegal \$30,000 contribution to his campaign from a foreign billionaire at a 2016 Los Angeles fundraiser. Fortenberry denied knowledge that he had received illicit funds from Gilbert Chagoury, a Nigerian billionaire of Lebanese descent who is prohibited from contributing to US elections. Chagoury donated \$30,000 through three straw donors, also of Lebanese descent, who attended the fundraiser and had ties to the nonprofit In Defense of Christians.

SOURCE: 24 March 2022, [Associated Press](#) [US DOJ](#)

(U) Sacramento – 5 Charged After Illegally Trafficking 500 Guns from Georgia to California

(U) Five people illegally trafficked more than 500 firearms from Georgia to California, where they would sell them on the black market, for more than \$160,000 over nearly two-years. The federal investigation began after authorities discovered that a gun used in a Sacramento shooting was traced to Georgia. A federal grand jury indicted the group Thursday after their arrests on 11 March. All five are charged with conspiracy to unlawfully deal in firearms and unlawful dealing in firearms. According to authorities, some of the firearms were sold to convicted felons prohibited from possessing firearms.

SOURCE: 24 March 2022, [NBC News](#) [US DOJ](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Head of Gulf Cartel Indicted

(U) Edinburg – Jose Alfredo Cardenas-Martinez aka El Contador was indicted on charges related to his position as the head of the Cardenas family drug trafficking operation known as the Cartel del Golfo (CDG). Cardenas-Martinez was charged in an international conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute meth, cocaine, and fentanyl. As head of the CDG, Cardenas-Martinez allegedly coordinated the shipment of narcotics to the US for illegal sale from 2015-2021. Cardenas-Martinez is currently in custody in Mexico pending litigation on a US extradition request.

SOURCE: 24 March 2022, [US DOJ](#) [Brownsville Herald](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Alabama – Methane Pipeline Near Coal Mine Ruptured in Possible Criminal Act

(U) Brookwood – A methane pipeline ruptured after midnight Thursday in a possible intentional act, according to agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). The Tuscaloosa Sheriff's Office, ATF Agents, ATF Certified Explosives Specialist, and FBI agents responded to the scene after a report of an explosion that occurred near a Warrior Met Coal mine. Law enforcement located a methane pipeline that was ruptured along with debris indicating to investigators that the incident could possibly be the result of a criminal act. The Alabama Mining Association announced Brookwood's Warrior Met Coal, Inc. is offering \$25,000 to anyone who provides information which directly leads to an arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the attack.

SOURCE: 25 March 2022, [WBRC 6](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) District of Columbia – Four Russians Charged in Global Hacking Campaigns Targeting Infrastructure

(U) Washington – Federal indictments unsealed Thursday charged four Russian government employees in two hacking conspiracies that targeted hundreds of entities in the energy sector in 135 countries from 2012 to 2018. The first indictment alleges efforts by an employee of the Russian Defense Ministry research institute that caused two emergency shutdowns at a foreign facility and an attempted breach of a US company. The second indictment details a campaign by three Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) officers to compromise the computers of hundreds of global entities in the energy sector. In addition to unsealing these charges, DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released a joint Cyber Advisory on the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures of Indicted State-Sponsored Russian Cyber Actors Targeting the Energy Sector.

SOURCE: 24 March 2022, [NBC News](#) [US DOJ](#) [CISA](#)

(U) Kentucky – Jewish Community Center Target of Bomb Threat

(U) Louisville – Police were called to the Jewish Community Center in Louisville in response to the report of a possible security threat Wednesday night. Officers determined the building was safe, but decided to close early "out of an abundance of caution." Louisville Metro Police stated the threat is under investigation. The threat comes after two Jewish institutions, one in Missouri and one in Pennsylvania, were the targets Wednesday morning of bomb threats that invoked Ukraine. Authorities have seen an uptick in threats to Jewish institutions across several states over the past few weeks.

SOURCE: 23 March 2022, [Courier Journal](#) [Times of Israel](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – National Register Announced for Convicted Terrorists

(U) Sydney – Australia will establish a national register for convicted terrorists as part of the federal government's national security funding in the upcoming budget. A nearly \$87 million package will go towards the register, and further support for anti-terror agencies and will target terrorists currently serving prison time who are considered a high-risk of reoffending once released. Australia currently does not monitor terrorism offenders after they are released from prison. The new register will be designed with the states and territories and will involve long-term reporting obligations for offenders.

SOURCE: 24 March 2022, [7 News Australia](#)

(U) Ireland – Foreign Minister Evacuated from Event Mid-Speech After Attack Attempt Discovered

(U) Belfast – Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney was taken off stage by officials during a speech in Belfast on Friday after the event organizer said a suspicious device had been discovered in a hijacked van in the car park of the venue. According to reports, the van driver was ordered at gunpoint to drive to the venue in north Belfast. The incident comes three days after the United Kingdom lowered its Northern Ireland-related terrorism threat level for the first time in more than a decade.

SOURCE: 25 March 2022, [Reuters](#) [Irish Times](#)

(U) Jamaica – Suspect in Haiti Presidential Slaying to Be Extradited to US

(U) Kingston – A former Haitian senator who is one of the main suspects in the slaying of former President Jovenel Moïse agreed Thursday to be extradited to the US to face charges. John Joël Joseph, who was arrested in Jamaica in January, where his wife and two sons have requested asylum. Two other suspects in the case, Haitian-Chilean businessman Rodolphe Jaar and Colombian soldier Mario Antonio Palacios, were recently extradited to the US to face charges.

SOURCE: 24 March 2022, [ABC News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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